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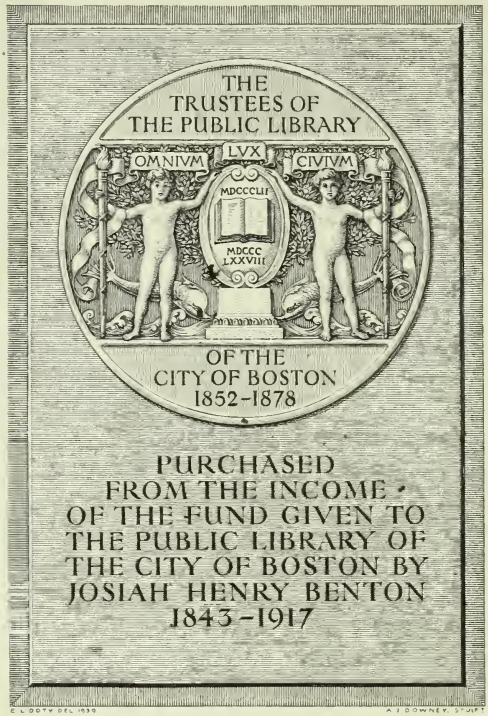

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Rare Book Dept

A DREAME:

Or Nevves From HELL.

With a Relation of the great God PLUTO, ſuddenly falling ſicke by reaſon of this preſent Parliament.

Printed in Sicilia on the back-ſide of the Cyclopean Mountaines. 1641.

Rare Book Dept.
xx N.406.76
Josiah H. Benton Fd.
Mar. 1, 1938
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A

DREAME

OR NEVVES

FROM HELL.

NOT long since an honest Yeoman comming up to *London*, to petition to the most honourable *High Court of Parliament* in his own behalfe, for an especiall wrong he had received from certaine Projectors, who had encroached upon a parcell of his Free-hold, neere to the Common where he dwelt, by direction of some well-minded people, came into *Westminster* Hall, where having walked a long time up and down, & not knowing unto whom to deliver his petition, among so many hundreds that he met withall, at last being desirous to take some repast, wherewith he might revive & comfort himselfe, he came to a place neere adjoyning, which was tearmed by the name of Hell, and having well satisfied himselfe with such a portion of meat & drinke as he thought might content his appetite, he demanded what might be to pay, and finding the reckoning

to be beyond his expectation, he grew very much discontented at the payment thereof, and repairing presently to his Lodging, being not farre off, and being very much perplexed at his former Reckoning, he resolved at the last to betake himselfe to his Bed, and not long after falling into a slumbring sleepe (divers Whimzies and diversities of Motions, swimming in his braine of the supposed Hell where he had formerly beene) he dream'd he was in the true and locall Hell indeed:

Where being affrighted with the apparitions of divers hideous and ugly deformed diabolicall Fiends, who were by his cogitation numberlesse, he was transported by his fancie to the great Court of *Grand Pluto*, who being attended with a multitude of his blacke Guard, and other his stigmaticall Officers, there was an instant hurly-burly and combustion in the Court, about the suddennesse of *Grand-Pluto* falling into a greevous sickenesse; wherefore all the Court Doctors of Hell being summoned to appeare (with an infinit company of Witches, Conjurers, & Sorcerers, fetcht from all other places, to give their best advice therein, were admitted into his princely Chamber, and having cast his water, and debated the matter a long time about the difficulty of his Disease, at length they all agreed, that he fell sick of a Parliament.

Whereupon Proclamation being made in *Pluto's* name throughout all his Hellish Dominions, to any what-

whatsoever to repaire unto his Court, with promises of great reward and favour from him, that could by any wayes comfort him in this behalfe. Vpon a sudden there appeared a multitude in long button'd Cassocks, high Collars, and square Caps, with small fallidg Bands about their Necks, who seemed to strive against all others, to be the first that might be admitted into his presence; and these were reported to be a company of Iesuites, who were the deere children of *Pluto*, who hearing that their Father was sick came in all submissive manner to visit him, and to offer their service unto him, and withall informed him, that if there were any Designe, Practice, Plot, Device, Study, or other stratagem whatsoever, that could administer him any comfort, or wherein they might any wayes expresse their duty unto him, or further enlarge his Kingdome, they would ride, runne, goe, trot, or what not to performe his pleasure therein, and withall, desired him to be of good cheere, and to be comforted in his Children, who were ready at all times to wait his will and pleasure, and to execute whatsoever he should command.

Hereupon they desired their Father Pluto to take notice of the former care they had to enlarge his Kingdome, by animating the great *Metropolitan* to be a meanes to bring in Popery, and to doe the best service he could therein.

And withall shewing how they had sowed sedition

and discord amongst the *English Hereticks*, and provoked the *Scottish Hereticks* to rebell against their lawfull King, and to intrude into the *Territories* of this Land; and also had animated their beloved Brother *Cardinall de Richlieu* to raise a puissant Army for the invasion of this Land in two severall places, (*viz.*) *at Dover and Portsmouth*, at such times as the King was supposed to be most deeply employed in his *Warre* against the *Scots*; and likewise have wee not procured your great *Secretary of State*, *Don Antonio Demonibus* to make an especiall inrolement of all their names in your Kalendar, amongst those your deare Servants, *the Plotters of the Gun-powder Treason, and those renowned Complotters of the former invasion into this Land in* 88. *and have not onely animated many noble personages, and others, to assist us in our great Designe of bringing in of Popery into this Land, but have also procured divers Popish Books to be printed openly, thereby the better to encourage your Highnesse, deere Father, and the more to enlarge your Kingdome.*

And for Courts of Justice, have we not also by our power and authority joyned with our dreadfull and High Commission, brought to passe, that if any Heretike, under the degree of a Lord, should but put on his Hat in the time of Divine Service, we kept him in our Ecclesiasticall clutches five or six yeares together. And have we not likewise in the Courts of *Chancery*, *Kings-Bench*, or *common Pleas*, procured diuers wayes and meanes wherby many men (though their cause were never so just) have beene either by

continuall delayes wearied in their Suites,or by extorted *Fees*,*Bribery*,or other *Devices*,driven to ſell and morgage their lands,goods,and whatſoever they have bin poſſeſſed off,that a man might have worne out 2 Buff-jerkins in that ſpace,&yet they ſeldom or never had an end of their ſuites,but have bin fleeced and jeered out of their demeanes , ſo long as they could procure either mony or friends,and yet it hath bin carryed ſo neatly and cunningly,as if the courſe of Iuſtice had bin exactly performed.

And for the Court of Exchequer, we are able further to teſtifie unto you(deare Father)out of our owne knowledge, that it is one of the beſt Courts belonging to your infernall Kingdome, for if a ſuite be once commenced there,they have ſo many delayes by putting in of Pleas,making of Motions,putting off a ſuite from Terme to Terme,after a verdict given,or framing ſome excuſes to ariſe from the Bench,when a Cauſe appointed for the day ſhould be heard, or to cauſe Motion upon Motion to be made, whereby ſo many Orders of the Court muſt be drawne up,or pretending the Court not to be full, with other ſiniſter devices and ſleights there uſed; that wee have knowne ſome men to have ſerved an Apprenticeſhip, and bin made Free-men, and alſo to have married Wives, and had children, and yet the ſuit formerly commenced not ended. Therefore,deare Father *Pluto*,be of good comfort, and take it not ſo much to heart,ſo long as you have ſuch dutifull children,and loving ſubjects; aſſuring your ſelfe, that we will doe our beſt endeavours to recover you of this Diſeaſe.

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Presently after this, there came a company of fellowes with broad Seales about their necks, who were nominated to be *Pluto's* Iourney-men, and had the title of *Patentees*, who also hearing that their *Grand-Master* was suddenly falne sick, presented themselves in all humble manner, *the further to expresse their duty and obedience vnto him*; Relating unto their hellish Master, that according to their power and his appointment, they had ever bin obedient and faithfull servants unto him, in oppressing and squeezing the Common-wealth, and that they intended to continue therein, to the end of their dayes, and by what meanes they could possibly invent or devise, they would shew themselves to be dutifull servants unto him, in racking, poling, and pinching the poore both in city and country, *vnder pretence of doing good in generall to the whole Common-wealth*; *and further declared vnto their Grand-Master, that in all their projects whatsoever, they had sheltred themselves vnder some great Patron, the better to colour their fraud and deceit*: and likewise, that in case they had any colour of setting the poore on worke, for a generall good, they might with authority and strictnesse the more covertly hide their cunning and knavery, and withall assured their great Master, that they would sit up late, rise early, and spare no paines to encrease his Kingdome, and humbly craved his approbation, *that they might bee further imployed either herein, or in what other busines, in that nature it pleased him to command.*

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Whereunto *Pluto* replyed, that they had all done well, and left them at their owne disposing to doe what they found to be convenient, and so they were dispatched for the present.

Not long after, *Cerberus* the Porter of Hell, brought tydings vnto the palace of *Pluto*, that there was a post arrived with a packet of Letters from little *Will*; whereupon *Don Antonio Demonibus*, his chiefe Secretarie of State, was presently sent for to read them vnto *Pluto*, the contents whereof, as farre as could be gathered by those that were neere about him, was to this effect, That the said little *Will*, with divers other great personages of the State, would with all convenient speed that might bee, come in person to visit his greatnesse, and there to remaine with him in his Court. Whereat *Pluto* being very glad, began to be somewhat chearefull at the hearing of this newes, calling him by name the Sonne of his love, and further said, he had not thought to have seene him so soone, as now by his letters directed vnto him he did expect: and thereupon *Pluto's* chiefe Secretarie of state was commanded to send an answer of the said packet of Letters by the same post to little *Will*, and the other great personages of State aforesaid, how glad he would be of their appearance in his Court, and what courteous entertainment they should have when they came there. Then *Pluto* gave command, that the post should be Royally rewarded for his paines, and called the post to him, & asked him what diet little *Will* did delight in, because the place where I keepe Court, is of a hotter Climate then he hath

beene in heretofore, the poſt made anſwer that little *Will* formerly did deſire tips of eares, but the Cooke dreſſed them with the blood in them, and ſo he tooke a ſurfet, and ever ſince lived at a ſparing diet. And further told his Highneſſe that he need not be at too much charge for little *Wills* dyet, he tooke delight but in two diſhes eſpecially, and they were Lamb and Duck, and thoſe he meant to bring with him. And ſuddainly vpon the departure of the poſt with this anſwer, Pluto *gave ſtrict charge and command vnto his infernall attendants, that divers faire Roomes ſhould be preſently trimmed vp, and hanged round about with Tapiſtry and Cloth of Arras, for the better entertainment of little* Will *and his fellowes, or any that came along with him.* Then I was very deſirous to know what this little *Will* was, at the firſt I could by no meanes learne, but at laſt *Iaſked* one that I ſuppoſed to be of *Pluto's* neere attendants, if he knew him or no, he informed me, that he did not know him, but ſurely it was one that as yet had never been in *Pluto's* Court before, and verily beleeved that he had performed ſome extraordinary buſineſſe in *Pluto's* behalfe, and deſerved to be highly advanced in his infernall Court, and alſo ſuppoſed him to be ſome great perſonage, otherwiſe he would never have received the Packet of Letters which he ſent him, with ſuch cheerefulneſſe, nor have given ſuch a ſtrict command to his chiefe Secretary, and others his infernall ſervants, for his ſpeedy and preſent entertainment to his Court.

And notwithſtanding the ſuddain expectation of

little

little *Wills* comming into *Pluto's* Court and the reſt of his fellowes, which did not a little comfort and revive him in this his lingring ſickneſſe, yet *Pluto* found not all to be well in himſelfe, but grew more and more to be perplexed and ſo wonderfully out of patience, that his ordinary attendants could hardly keepe him in his Bed, inſomuch, that all his Helliſh Doctors were once againe ſent for to come with all ſpeed vnto him, who being come there, they found that he was very dangerouſly ſick indeed, and that he was fallen into a grievous relapſe, and that there was no meanes left to recover *Pluto's* health, and to reſtore him to his former ſtrength againe, or to enlarge his infernall Kingdome, but that by ſome device or other this preſent Parliament might be diſſolved, and broken vp, which being fully agreed vpon by all his Doctors they informed his Highneſſe. *That if ever he expected to regaine his former eſtate, or to get any footing in England, he muſt with all ſpeed call a generall Councill of all his infernall and wel-beloved Subjects, that they might adviſe and conſult what way were beſt that this preſent Parliament might be diſſolved as aforeſaid.*

Whereupon *Cerberus* by ſpeciall command and appointment of *Grand Pluto*, had authority to ſet the gates of Hell wide open, and that all paſſengers whatſoever, (none to be denyed) might freely have acceſſe to come and heare the will and pleaſure of *Pluto*, and alſo *Charon* was commanded with all poſſible ſpeed to provide himſelfe of as many Boats

as he could to ferry them from all parts and places to this purpose, and when there was a huge multitude of all sorts gathered together in a large and spacious place, one of the chiefe Heraulds belonging to the internall court cryed out vnto the assembly with a loud voice, to crave a generall silence, after which, *Pluto* thus began:

My deare children, Servants, Iourneymen, and well approved Subiects, you see into what a low and weake estate I am brought, and as you have beene dutifull and obedient with all diligence hitherto to execute my commands, so my desire is, that you would alwaies continue vnto the end, I cannot forget your care, true love, industry, and paines you have taken in generall, for the enlargement of my Kingnome, and you my beloved Doctors, in endeavouring to performe your best skill, to recover my former health, as also you my deareſt children whose Sanctity, we reverence, whose persons we adore, whose policies we wonder at, whose power we muse at, whose invincible Stratagems we stand amazed at, and whose Wisdomes we admire, neither can we but in the first place extoll, applaud, and highly commend you, for your extraordinary care in advancing our infernall Dominions.

And we are also pleased of our infernall grace and favour, to take notice of your great service done, in working the dissolution of the last Parliament, by which meanes nothing was effected for the good of the Hereticks, either concerning the church or common wealth, but thereby the Nobles of *England* were male-content, the Gentry discouraged, the Commons divided, the number of our servants, the *Roman*

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Catholikes infinitly encreaſed, and the whole Realme of *England* mightily oppreſſed; ſo as the ſucceſſe of our deſigne was thereby no waies hindered.

Now my wel-beloved children, ſervants, Iourneymen, ſubjects, Allies, & all my well-willers whomſoever, if you could by any Device, Stratagem, Policy, Money, Friendſhip, or any other deluſive or ſiniſter means, ſtudy to diſſolve or break up this preſent Parliament, wch would be the onely way, as we conceive in our Diabolicall Princely Wiſdome, to breake the bond of peace & vnity amongſt them, and thereby to move God to leave them to themſelves, you ſhould not onely be enrolled in our everlaſting Kalendar for our deareſt children and Subjects, but alſo be placed neere us in our favour for ever; and then alſo, to our great comfort, our infernall Stratagem might ſpeedily be executed vpon them, & our Kingdome mightily encreaſed and enlarged.

Therefore all you my deare children, ſubjects, attendants, and Allyes, who are willing to doe your beſt endeavours for the performing of this Enterprize; we require you to be ready to take the Oath *ex officio*, & to lay your hands vpon the Book. Whereupon with a generall acclamation & conſent, they all promiſed to doe what poſſible in them lay to performe his requeſt, and affirmed, that they all were willing to conſẽt to his demand, & therepon they layd their hands vpon the Booke. Then *Pluto* cauſing his principall attendants to raiſe him a little higher on his Pillow, proceeded on this manner: You my loving Subjects who have ſtept aſide, and made your legges your beſt protection, you alſo that are vnder the command of

the Black Rod, and you that much feare you ſhall be queſtioned this preſent Parliament, and you my Iourneymen Patentees, and the reſt of my loving Subjects here preſent, are you all willing to take the oath aforeſaid for the breaking vp of this Parliament, then they all cryed with one voice; *Willing, moſt willing, long live your Helliſh Majeſtie*, I beleeve you (ſaid *Pluto*) take your hands from the Booke, I dare take your bare words. Whereupon *Pluto's* great Counſell was called before his infernall Highneſſe, and being aſſembled together, they all cõcluded, that forthwith a Proclamation ſhould be ſent abroad into all places in great *Pluto's* name, the tenour whereof followeth.

TO the Pope, our right Truſty and welbeloved Sonne, and all the Ieſuiticall Rabble, our adopted Children, to the *Spaniard*, *Italian*, *French*, *Dutch*, or what Nation, people, or in what parts ſoever this ſhall come, theſe are to give notice, that whoſoever can by any fraud, friendſhip, money, or any other means whatſoever, diſſolve & breake vp this preſent Parliament, That thereby great *Pluto* may recover not onely his former health, but that his Kingdomes and Dominions may alſo be enlarged, he ſh ll for ſo memorable an Act, be ſeated inplace of Iudicature with his chiefe

chiefe Iuſtice *Rhadamantus*; or next to *Pluto* himſelfe, and forthwith be made Vice-Roy of Hell, prince of this world, Arch-Duke of *Styx*, *Acheron*; & *Phlegeton*; Marqueſſe of *Cocytus* and *Lethe*; and ſole Commander (vnder him) of all Infernall Spirits and Furies.

And hereunto, we, the ſayd Grand Pluto *have ſet our Hand and Seale Royall, in the preſence of all our Children, Friends and ſervants aforenamed.*

This being proclaimed with thundring Drums, and ſound of Trumpets, awaked the honeſt Country-man, who having ſeen and obſerved in his Dreame, all theſe paſſages and occurrents, lay for a while as it were in a trance, trembling and in a great extaſie, at laſt recollecting his ſenſes, he aroſe, and going from his chamber to goe about his buſineſſe, he met by chance with two of his owne Countrey-men, who had beene a long time encombred with Law-ſuites, vnto whom he related this his Dreame, with all the paſſages aforeſaid, whereat they wondering, and much aſtoniſhed, deſired him to deliver vnto them a Copie thereof in writing, which he promiſed, and performed the next day following.

FINIS.

JUL 1 1 1944